

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David W. Rouille on 12/3/09.

3. The specification has been amended as follows:

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application Serial Number 60/433,604, filed 16 December 2002, entitled "Poll Scheduling and Power Saving," (~~Attorney Docket: 3655-0184P~~), which is also incorporated by reference.

[0002] The following patent application is incorporated by reference: U.S. patent application Serial Number 10/674,178 ~~60/xxx,xxx~~, filed on 29 September 2003, now U.S. patent No. 7,154,876 ~~Attorney Docket 630-039~~, entitled "Exploratory Polling of Periodic Traffic Sources."

[0039] As is well-known in the art, in local-area networks that operate in accordance with IEEE 802.11e, a version of 802.11 that supports quality-of-service (QoS), station 202-i transmits a polling request to access point 201 in combination with a traffic specification (TSPEC) that characterizes, via a plurality of fields, traffic generated by station 202-i. In some embodiments, an IEEE 802.11e-compliant station 202-i might encode one or both of the temporal period and temporal offset in the traffic specification via one or more TSPEC fields. In one such encoding, station 202-i populates both the TSPEC Minimum Service Interval and Maximum Service

Interval fields with the temporal period. In accordance with this encoding, access point 201, upon receipt of a polling request in which the associated traffic specification has a Minimum Service Interval field and a Maximum Service Interval field with the same value, recognizes that station 202-i generates periodic traffic with a temporal period equal to this value. (A method by which access point 201 ascertains the temporal offset when a polling request specifies only the temporal period is disclosed in co-pending U.S. patent application 10/674,178, entitled "Exploratory Polling For Periodic Traffic Sources," [Attorney Docket: 630-039us].)

4. Claims 6, 11, and 15 have been amended as follows:

Claim 6. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

populating, by a computer, a first field of a traffic specification with a first function of at least one of a temporal period and a temporal offset, wherein said temporal period and said temporal offset are for a plurality of expected future transmissions;

populating a second field of said traffic specification with a second function of at least one of said temporal period and said temporal offset, wherein said first field is a Minimum Service Interval field and said second field is a Maximum Service Interval field, wherein said Minimum Service Interval field is populated with a larger value than said Maximum Service Interval field; and

transmitting a polling request with said traffic specification.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving, by a computer, a polling request and a traffic specification that specifies a first field and a second field, wherein said first field is a Minimum Service Interval field and said

second field is a Maximum Service Interval field, wherein said Minimum Service Interval field has a larger value than said Maximum Service Interval field; and

determining one of a temporal period and a temporal offset from said first field.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving, by a computer, a polling request and a traffic specification that specifies a first field and a second field; and

determining a temporal period and a temporal offset from said first field and said second field, wherein said first field is a Minimum Service Interval field and said second field is a Maximum Service Interval field, wherein said Minimum Service Interval field has a larger value than said Maximum Service Interval field.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRIAN D. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3084. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (571) 272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

12/5/09
/Brian D Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2472